

DECLARATION OF ANDRE WATSON

I, Andre Watson, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

1. I am the Senior Official within the National Security Division (NSD) for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). I am a career member of the Senior Executive Service with the rank of Assistant Director. Prior to becoming the Assistant Director of NSD, I served on a detail assignment to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the capacity of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office. I have additionally served as the HSI Special Agent in Charge in Baltimore, M.D., Deputy Special Agent in Charge in Washington, D.C., Assistant Special Agent in Charge in Houston, T.X., and Supervisory Special Agent in Blaine, W.A. I have also previously served in Headquarters assignments such as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Chief of Intelligence for the U.S. Department of Justice, International Organized Crime and Intelligence Operations Center, and various supervisory positions within NSD.

2. As the Senior Official within NSD, I oversee the National Security Division as well as Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) functions in support of ICE efforts to identify, disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal enterprises and terrorist organizations that threaten the security of the United States. These efforts encompass all investigations and aspects of terrorism, special interests involving state and non-state actors, human rights violators and war criminals, as well as compliance and oversight functions for over 6,900 academic institutions, 45,000 designated school officials, and over 1.2 million foreign students studying in the United States.

3. I provide this declaration based on my personal knowledge, reasonable inquiry, and information obtained from DHS personnel, various records, systems, databases, other Department

of Homeland Security (DHS) employees, and information portals maintained and relied upon by DHS in the regular course of business.

4. Beginning in March of 2025, ICE reviewed and terminated numerous SEVIS records due to information provided by U.S. Department of State and criminal databases.

5. ICE has re-activated SEVIS records for plaintiff(s) who met the parameters above.

6. ICE has no plans under its new SEVIS policy to re-terminate the plaintiff(s) SEVIS record based solely on the NCIC record that led to its initial termination.

7. ICE's reactivation of the plaintiff(s) SEVIS record is being made retroactive to the date of its initial termination such that there is no gap in the plaintiff(s)' SEVIS record.

8. For plaintiff(s) who were or are currently engaged in Optional Practical Training (OPT) where SEVP also edited the SEVIS record to change the OPT employment authorization end date, the record has been reset to the end date set forth in the alien's SEVIS record before its termination.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 6th day of May 2025.

ANDRE R
WATSON

Digitally signed by
ANDRE R WATSON
Date: 2025.05.06 18:35:23
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Andre Watson, Assistant Director
National Security Division
Homeland Security Investigations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security